5. Special additional allocation of foodgrains to drought affected States at BPL rates for distribution to drought affected families (both APL and BPL) at the rate of 20 kg per family per month for a period of 3 months have been made to the Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan.

6. The Government have also launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana for the poorest of the poor and allocations under the Scheme have started from March, 2001. The Scheme which was announced by the Prime Minister on 25.12.2000 provide for availability of 25 kgs of foodgrains to each eligible family at highly subsidised rates—Rs. 2 a kg for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg for rice. There are about 1 crore antyodaya families in the country. The identification of these families is carried out by the State Governments/UT Administrations from amongst the BPL families. So far allocations under this Scheme have been made to 28 States/UTs.

7. On 15th August, 2001 the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced launching of a universal Food for Work Programme in all the States/UTs for organising various employment generation programmes titled as "Sampoorn Gramin Rojgar Yojana". Under the Scheme 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains will be allotted to the States/UTs free of cost annually.

Distribution of foodgrains to starving farmers

489. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers have raided FCI godowns in the drought hit areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to distribute food stocks lying with Government to starving farmers; and

(c) the number of starvation deaths reported during the Kharif season in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken a number of steps to ensure availability of foodgrains for the poor which have been mentioned in the Statement. [*Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 488.*]